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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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1st May 2024

Dear Parents

Wow, 1st May - the year is certainly speeding along! Just a few bits and bobs as we enter the Summer term.

## Attendance:

Many thanks when it comes to your children's attendance. We will always reiterate our 48 hour rule following any sickness, to try to keep any outbreaks in classes to a minimum and can't thank you enough for sticking to this and keeping us informed. Good attendance is extremely important for your children's learning, and a key government initiative too, so we will be sending out the spring term attendance statement for your child as promised last term. If your child's attendance is in the red, and that is due to sickness/illness, please do not worry, this is not a problem. However, we will be in contact with you if anyone's child has continued to accrue persistent absence from September to date (non-sickness related) to see how we can support further.

## Sports Day:

Just a reminder that our School Sports Day is in June - the morning of Friday 21st June. Hopefully the weather will be kind and it will go ahead without a worry, however, please be mindful that it is weather dependent, and we will have to make the final call (thinking of the health and safety of our children) either the night before or on the morning itself. We look forward to seeing you there and if anyone would kindly support the PTA in serving refreshments, that would be brilliant too, please just catch Hayley or Kate! We are aiming for a 9.15am start in the playground. If it goes ahead, we do ask children to bring spare socks and shoes for a dewy morning to ensure children's feet don't get rubbed throughout the day!

## PTA:

As of September, our key PTA members will no longer have their children at our school and will be moving on too. We cannot thank Hayley and Kate enough for everything they have done for us and our children but this will leave a huge gap going forward to support our fundraising efforts, which are so key at our small school. Please do approach them to see what they do; very happy for people to share roles and share out jobs as it does really benefit all children in Whalton.

## Upcoming Residential for Year 4/5

Many thanks to all of the parents who came along to the meeting with Mr Morris. We really hope that this has put your mind at rest, answered any questions you had and that you can see how much fun that your children are going to have (and where they are going to be!). If you have any other questions at all, please do not hesitate to pop into school. The children had a lovely chat with Mrs Birnie and myself so that they could have any of their questions/worries answered too. The children that went last year were brilliant at sharing their experiences and enthusiasm. I will be going up to join them on Tuesday for the day.

## Car Parking and Safety of our Children

Both the Governors and the Village have expressed their concerns about the challenges of parking at school/PAWS and the danger it brings. We will be putting up some banners to remind everyone who visits school and PAWS, as well as yourselves as parents, to think carefully before you park. We would rather the children be a little late than think of the alternative. Please do not park along the narrow part of the road, alongside the Church, as it becomes even more narrow and dangerous to pass and absolutely terrifying if trying to get children out of car seats on the main road. I have contacted the Beresford pub as this used to be our safe park and walk zone, but if you have any ideas at all about how we can help solve the matter, please do get in touch. Our local councillor is visiting school this month and this will form part of our discussions.

## Parent Governor

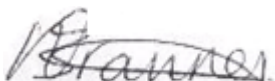
So pleased to announce that we have a new Parent Governor, Stephen Brown who will soon be joining our Federation Governing Body. For those of you who are unsure who our governors are currently, please click on the link [Whalton C of E Primary School](#)

## Deaf Awareness

Many thanks to Mrs Storey for continuing her Deaf Awareness Choir at lunchtimes for our children this half term; the children have been very enthusiastic in their singing and signing. On Thursday 23rd May at 2.30pm in the hall, Mrs Storey would like to deliver a deaf awareness presentation with some Basic British Sign Language for parents followed by a finale performance from the deaf awareness choir. Please do let school know if you will be joining us by emailing [whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk](mailto:whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk)

As always, if you have any queries or concerns, please do get in contact with me. Here's to a joyful summer term full of fun and learning (and hopefully sunshine!).

Kind regards



Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher